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American Petroleum Institute
1220 L Street, Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20005

Monthly Completion Report

STATISTICS DEPARTMENT
Special Projects Section
(202) 682-8492/682-8518

Report Month: AUGUST 1986

REPORT ON WELL COMPLETIONS IN THE UNITED STATES[1]

Wells actually completed in the current month may not be reported until several months later. The chart shown below illustrates the cumulative number of well completions for the current month and each of the eleven prior months, as now reported to the API. For comparison purposes, a corresponding curve describes the data, as then reported to the API, for the same twelve-month period a year ago.

These data are preliminary and subject to revision. The number of wells shown in the chart excludes stratigraphic and core tests and service wells. The geographic distribution for wells and footage is not published on a monthly basis, but is available from the API's "Quarterly Completion Report."

Cumulative Number of Wells Reported as Completed
For Each of the Past 12 Months

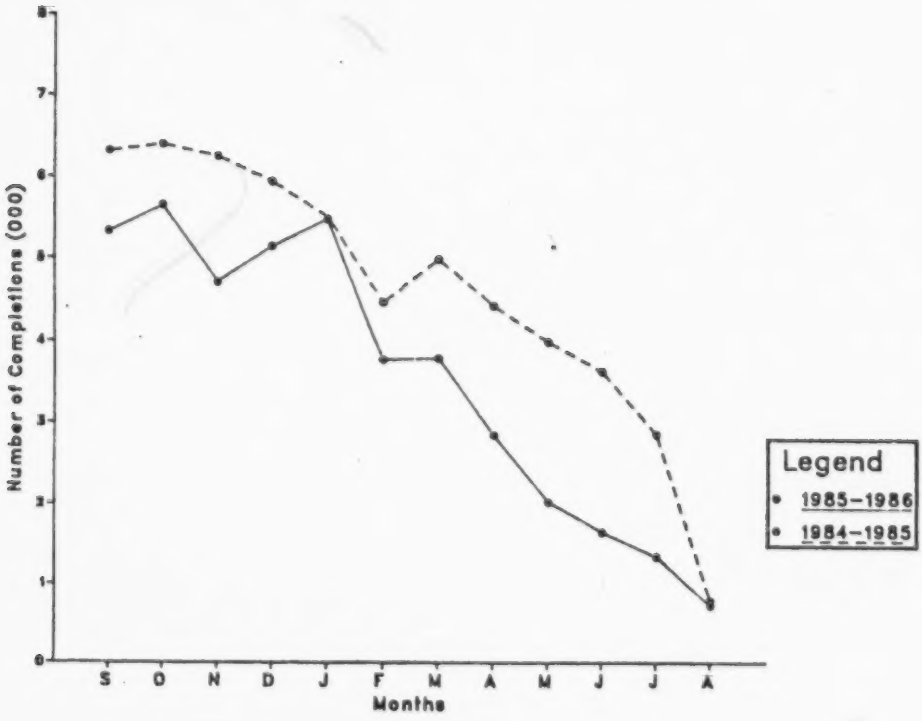

TABLE I: CUMULATIVE NUMBER OF TOTAL WELLS AND FOOTAGE DRILLED IN THE UNITED STATES BY COMPLETION MONTH AND YEAR, AS OF AUGUST 29, 1986[1]

	OIL WELLS[2]		GAS WELLS[3]		DRY HOLES		TOTAL OIL & GAS & DRY HOLES		TOTAL ALL WELLS[4]	
	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE
TOTAL 1986	11,089	47,175,155	3,386	20,217,524	7,052	36,247,201	21,527	103,639,880	21,857	104,883,654
1986: AUG	258	1,138,701	48	257,547	414	1,927,649	720	3,323,897	730	3,358,724
JUL	558	2,542,169	170	1,051,900	602	3,092,345	1,330	6,686,414	1,357	6,795,505
JUN	733	3,243,164	265	1,665,124	636	3,075,869	1,634	7,984,157	1,657	8,081,754
MAY	936	4,360,048	343	2,074,760	726	3,819,523	2,005	10,254,331	2,050	10,439,302
APR	1,456	6,606,354	496	3,129,006	879	4,440,428	2,831	14,175,788	2,877	14,365,686
MAR	2,060	8,917,668	585	3,627,398	1,133	5,633,178	3,778	18,178,244	3,824	18,326,271
FEB	2,104	9,085,242	597	3,611,900	1,062	5,959,528	3,763	18,656,670	3,822	18,888,042
JAN	2,984	11,281,809	882	4,799,889	1,600	8,298,681	5,466	24,380,379	5,540	24,628,370
TOTAL 1985	34,336	136,816,180	12,011	66,842,439	20,072	99,935,335	66,419	303,653,954	67,980	308,545,520
1985: DEC	2,609	10,665,326	820	4,694,461	1,705	8,835,516	5,134	24,195,303	5,208	24,455,439
NOV	2,434	9,766,099	806	4,694,803	1,461	7,316,776	4,701	21,777,678	4,769	22,038,514
OCT	2,834	11,310,690	1,132	5,839,010	1,674	8,181,296	5,640	25,330,996	5,729	25,644,227
SEP	2,689	10,339,556	1,007	5,293,403	1,627	8,012,327	5,323	23,645,286	5,405	23,882,193
AUG	3,175	12,190,591	1,068	5,762,854	1,845	8,788,436	6,088	26,741,881	6,180	27,006,357
JUL	2,976	11,082,588	1,043	5,765,016	1,720	8,150,567	5,739	24,998,171	5,892	25,425,339
JUN	2,832	10,980,637	989	5,317,934	1,596	7,539,762	5,417	23,838,333	5,559	24,284,899
MAY	2,761	11,433,316	879	4,942,641	1,605	8,045,740	5,245	24,421,697	5,436	24,998,697
APR	2,881	11,619,508	957	5,592,632	1,674	8,364,093	5,512	25,576,233	5,664	25,999,030
MAR	3,156	12,889,713	1,072	6,167,691	1,766	8,768,851	5,994	27,826,255	6,196	28,362,269
FEB	2,756	11,487,345	1,067	6,124,136	1,477	7,757,765	5,300	25,369,246	5,436	25,820,262
JAN	3,233	13,050,811	1,171	6,647,858	1,922	10,234,206	6,326	29,932,875	6,506	30,628,294
TOTAL 1984	43,234	164,987,974	14,528	79,997,418	24,689	117,192,632	82,451	362,178,024	84,619	367,842,317
1984: DEC	3,541	13,173,185	1,296	6,775,291	2,063	10,405,506	6,900	30,353,982	7,082	30,824,557
NOV	3,675	13,782,299	1,396	7,073,478	1,980	9,683,043	7,051	30,538,820	7,228	31,020,974
OCT	3,691	14,625,037	1,338	7,229,593	2,022	9,571,908	7,051	31,426,538	7,283	32,090,997
SEP	3,608	13,279,429	1,229	6,510,162	2,053	9,417,763	6,890	29,207,354	7,030	29,578,800
AUG	3,826	14,059,316	1,388	7,444,422	2,483	11,123,379	7,697	32,627,117	7,894	33,206,597
JUL	3,871	14,490,224	1,234	6,953,581	2,257	10,192,382	7,362	31,636,187	7,544	32,115,202
JUN	3,835	14,114,894	1,289	6,888,773	2,319	10,408,921	7,443	31,412,588	7,629	31,877,383
MAY	3,670	14,106,069	1,163	6,645,974	1,941	9,414,652	6,774	30,166,695	6,950	30,578,617
APR	3,205	12,064,436	857	5,327,560	1,700	8,387,025	5,762	25,779,021	5,961	26,233,199
MAR	3,367	13,484,477	1,031	6,411,471	1,780	8,881,394	6,178	28,777,342	6,354	29,204,647
FEB	3,383	13,400,979	1,120	6,148,229	1,801	8,827,825	6,304	28,377,033	6,461	28,811,800
JAN	3,562	14,407,629	1,187	6,588,884	2,290	10,878,834	7,039	31,875,347	7,203	32,299,544
TOTAL 1983	37,984	140,272,841	12,592	69,420,030	23,484	102,895,223	74,060	312,588,094	76,081	317,328,986
TOTAL 1982	40,109	152,703,014	17,138	99,077,187	25,773	121,913,476	83,020	373,693,677	85,252	378,972,970

See footnotes on page 5.

TABLE II: CUMULATIVE NUMBER OF EXPLORATORY WELLS AND FOOTAGE DRILLED IN THE UNITED STATES BY COMPLETION MONTH AND YEAR, AS OF AUGUST 29, 1986[1]

	OIL WELLS[2]		GAS WELLS[3]		DRY HOLES		TOTAL OIL & GAS & DRY HOLES	
	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE
TOTAL 1986	658	4,087,960	381	2,728,003	3,174	18,628,501	4,213	25,444,464
1986: AUG	16	93,727	4	29,149	173	989,190	193	1,112,066
JUL	41	224,752	25	144,902	282	1,532,104	348	1,901,758
JUN	43	262,292	32	200,854	255	1,435,238	330	1,898,384
MAY	68	404,922	39	316,971	356	2,129,286	463	2,851,179
APR	84	580,236	54	459,130	397	2,274,104	535	3,313,470
MAR	106	722,142	66	537,618	502	2,902,426	674	4,162,186
FEB	118	743,092	70	508,615	485	3,114,187	673	4,365,894
JAN	182	1,056,797	91	530,764	724	4,251,966	997	5,839,527
TOTAL 1985	1,753	10,147,092	1,218	8,172,847	8,871	48,974,193	11,842	67,294,132
1985: DEC	143	842,651	78	525,365	833	4,732,079	1,054	6,100,095
NOV	109	643,827	86	639,892	665	3,660,686	860	4,944,405
OCT	145	803,938	84	480,947	758	4,029,767	987	5,314,652
SEP	120	648,207	72	492,108	729	3,930,188	921	5,070,503
AUG	170	1,000,026	95	616,958	808	4,229,297	1,073	5,846,281
JUL	137	791,260	90	585,897	736	3,868,528	963	5,245,685
JUN	128	655,222	111	798,326	672	3,393,809	911	4,847,357
MAY	153	883,722	123	779,966	675	3,768,121	951	5,431,809
APR	128	708,239	112	765,534	711	4,051,748	951	5,525,521
MAR	181	1,088,703	106	687,077	734	4,136,867	1,021	5,912,647
FEB	164	1,026,618	119	832,260	683	4,054,607	966	5,913,485
JAN	175	1,054,679	142	968,517	867	5,118,496	1,184	7,141,692
TOTAL 1984	2,313	12,508,784	1,557	9,795,889	10,980	58,160,121	14,850	80,464,794
1984: DEC	156	797,748	104	580,181	940	5,407,745	1,200	6,785,674
NOV	179	988,586	111	666,224	857	4,733,328	1,147	6,388,138
OCT	159	825,650	139	893,637	945	4,827,769	1,243	6,547,056
SEP	216	1,170,730	129	871,775	894	4,571,425	1,239	6,613,930
AUG	187	998,761	124	806,449	1,069	5,530,717	1,380	7,335,927
JUL	190	989,346	150	982,743	1,056	5,222,394	1,396	7,194,485
JUN	199	1,110,611	134	777,040	1,069	5,307,957	1,402	7,195,608
MAY	214	1,167,446	133	826,856	839	4,590,164	1,186	6,584,466
APR	155	901,620	99	678,757	753	4,073,441	1,007	5,653,818
MAR	216	1,200,913	152	1,035,415	740	4,163,906	1,108	6,400,234
FEB	206	1,163,415	150	889,126	810	4,440,602	1,166	6,493,143
JAN	236	1,193,956	132	787,686	1,008	5,290,673	1,376	7,272,315
TOTAL 1983	2,131	10,614,709	1,617	10,108,608	10,045	48,301,570	13,793	69,024,887
TOTAL 1982	2,485	13,504,484	2,132	14,616,499	11,213	60,250,283	15,830	88,371,266

See footnotes on page 5.

TABLE III: TOTAL NUMBER OF WELLS AND FOOTAGE ADDITIONS[1] BY COMPLETION MONTH AND YEAR REPORTED TO THE API DURING AUGUST 1986

	OIL WELLS[2]		GAS WELLS[3]		DRY HOLES		TOTAL OIL & GAS AND DRY HOLES		TOTAL WELLS REPORTED[4] CURRENT MONTH	
	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE
TOTAL 1986	1,240	5,581,682	538	2,969,595	984	4,590,120	2,762	13,141,397	2,832	13,409,704
1986: AUG	258	1,138,701	48	257,547	414	1,927,649	720	3,323,897	730	3,358,724
JUL	430	1,986,509	138	860,712	304	1,531,680	872	4,378,901	896	4,474,736
JUN	225	980,140	123	744,169	93	385,948	441	2,110,257	450	2,148,030
MAY	119	544,782	76	401,983	59	251,817	254	1,198,582	259	1,221,416
APR	58	284,821	55	280,562	33	137,810	146	703,193	153	736,118
MAR	61	297,042	35	140,532	36	142,302	132	579,876	134	584,510
FEB	43	197,192	29	169,866	24	120,599	96	487,657	100	498,075
JAN	46	152,495	34	114,224	21	92,315	101	359,034	110	388,095
TOTAL 1985	232	615,836	136	700,154	105	338,986	473	1,654,976	499	1,705,615
1985: DEC	36	119,307	25	124,654	12	40,661	73	284,622	78	292,112
NOV	32	104,071	17	120,888	13	63,689	62	288,648	63	290,123
OCT	21	62,204	22	81,926	15	46,370	58	190,500	59	192,000
SEP	13	30,228	17	54,725	7	12,947	37	97,900	37	97,900
AUG	41	71,402	16	95,512	8	42,586	65	209,500	70	212,714
JUL	20	32,993	7	41,670	14	37,621	41	112,284	43	118,794
JUN	16	37,490	9	36,901	9	24,683	34	99,074	35	100,794
MAY	13	38,307	0	0	6	21,636	19	59,943	21	61,586
APR	9	31,958	3	15,611	7	17,721	19	65,290	24	84,338
MAR	12	21,168	7	50,950	2	4,828	21	76,946	22	77,768
FEB	9	27,222	10	58,164	6	12,487	25	97,873	26	97,894
JAN	10	39,486	3	19,153	6	13,757	19	72,396	21	79,592
TOTAL 1984	64	178,779	49	183,468	56	201,104	169	563,351	180	581,000
1984: DEC	10	19,557	6	21,740	9	17,397	25	58,694	25	58,694
NOV	3	10,711	12	42,574	2	6,721	17	60,006	18	61,343
OCT	4	13,814	1	3,800	2	27,347	7	44,961	7	44,961
SEP	8	9,549	3	7,915	8	16,713	19	34,177	20	36,155
AUG	6	13,299	3	19,068	7	21,774	16	54,141	17	54,559
JUL	3	12,454	5	18,543	8	40,326	16	71,323	17	72,468
JUN	5	33,473	7	17,720	1	3,000	13	54,193	16	63,999
MAY	7	29,131	4	29,275	3	20,780	14	79,186	15	79,846
APR	4	10,961	0	0	5	9,937	9	20,898	9	20,898
MAR	5	6,845	3	8,912	6	21,126	14	36,883	14	36,883
FEB	4	5,639	0	0	2	7,559	6	13,198	8	13,936
JAN	5	13,346	5	13,921	3	8,424	13	35,691	14	37,258
TOTAL 1983	45	73,275	16	79,795	32	96,465	93	249,535	96	256,189
YRS PRIOR TO 1983	34	69,978	7	13,244	35	76,951	76	160,173	77	160,880
TOTAL WELLS REPORTED[5]	1,615	6,519,550	746	3,946,256	1,212	5,303,626	3,573	15,769,432	3,684	16,113,388

See footnotes on page 5.

TABLE I AND TABLE II:

1. The cumulative number of wells reported in this table is the total number of wells included in the API database for each of the months and years shown, as of August 29, 1986. These data are preliminary and subject to further revisions.

2. Includes multiple completion wells which produce oil from at least one zone, but may produce gas from one or more zones. A multiple completion well is counted as one well.

3. Includes multiple completion wells which produce gas from all zones. A multiple completion well is counted as one well. Gas wells also include so-called condensate wells.

4. Includes stratigraphic and core tests and service wells. (Not applicable to Table II.)

TABLE III:

1. Total number of wells received by the API during the report month and classified by completion month and year. These wells are included in Tables I and II.

2. See footnote (2) above.

3. See footnote (3) above.

4. Includes stratigraphic and core tests and service wells.

5. Total wells reported are those received by the API for the report period July 26, 1986 through August 29, 1986. The sub-totals shown for each yearly period may not add up to the total wells reported for the period. Some wells, received during the report period, may have been completed in years prior to those shown in Table III.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

In 1966 the American Petroleum Institute, in conjunction with other industry associations and federal and state agencies, agreed on a set of definitions for terms used in reporting statistical information. Included were the definitions for oil wells and gas wells, which have appeared as footnotes in the API's drilling publications since 1970. In most cases these definitions were adhered to.

The one exception to this was in the state of Ohio, where a substantial number of wells produce primarily gas along with relatively small amounts of oil. The Ohio Division of Oil and Gas classified these as "combination" wells. In reporting these wells to the API, the Ohio Oil and Gas Division developed a formula for classifying these combination wells as either oil or gas. Therefore, for the years 1970 through 1985, certain wells were classified as gas wells, which under the API definitions would have been classified as oil wells.

Petroleum Information Corporation, on the other hand, adhered to the definitions established, and thus reported these wells as oil wells. Thus, beginning in 1986, when PI was retained as the source for drilling information, wells which in the past would have been reported as gas wells now are being included in the oil well category.

This change will not be too apparent for the current report period since the reporting time lag for some areas tends to minimize the impact. However, as more 1986 data are reported to the API, the shift in well classification, from gas to oil, will become evident.

Therefore, the API has modified its data base and has changed the previously reported gas wells to oil wells to coincide with the new reporting basis. Thus, the April "Monthly Completion Report" shows the number of oil wells and gas wells for the current month and all prior months on the new basis.

1/ A well which produces oil from one zone, regardless of the number of productive gas zones, is classified as an oil well. A well which produces gas from one or more zones is classified as a gas well.

The January through March, 1986 "Monthly Completion Reports" also have been reclassified and they will be made available to Subscribers on request. If you wish to receive the three prior monthly reports please write to:

Drilling Statistics Section
American Petroleum Institute
1220 L Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20005